

Application Serial No.: 10/565,690
Amendment Dated November —, 2007
Response to Office Action Mailed August 28, 2007
Via Telefax: 571-273-8300

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AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this Application.

1. (Currently Amended) A single use, sealable package that is adapted, when sealed after insertion of contents, to resist leakage of said contents when subjected to a raised internal pressure compared to external, ambient pressure over a range of temperatures, so as to meet pertinent international and federal standards for shipping hazardous ~~substances contained~~ contents therein by commercial air transport, the package comprising:

a flexible, air-impervious envelope having an outer wall ~~(2)~~, wherein

portions of said outer wall form a slot ~~(5)~~ through said outer wall and also form first and second lips ~~(9, 23)~~ on said outer wall adjacent said slot, the slot and lips having a length along the slot, and

an adhesive strip ~~(10)~~ positioned selectively to close the slot in said outer wall along the entire length of said slot with a double seal formed along the outer wall of the envelope, wherein the adhesive strip ~~(10)~~ comprises two parallel adhesive faces and has opposite first and second ends thereon, and wherein

a first of said parallel adhesive faces ~~(16, 21)~~ is completely covered with a first, detachable protective strip ~~(17)~~ prior to closing the slot,

a second of said parallel adhesive faces comprises a first zone ~~(12)~~ adjacent said first end of the strip that is fixed to the outer wall ~~(2)~~ of the envelope along and beyond the entire length of said first lip ~~(9)~~ of said slot ~~(5)~~, and a second zone ~~(14)~~ that extends adjacent and beyond the slot and said second lip ~~(23)~~ of the slot and along the entire length of said slot, and

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said second zone of the second face of the adhesive strip is covered with a second detachable protective strip (15) prior to closing the slot, whereby ~~the slot 5 is adapted to be doubly sealed along its entire length on the outer wall (2) of the envelope by, first, the first face of the adhesive strip and also, second, by the second face of the adhesive strip 10 bonding to the outer wall 2 of the envelope adjacent and beyond the end 21 of the first face 16, 20 of the adhesive strip 10 when the package is filled, closed and sealed, and shipped.~~ after the package is filled with said content and closed and sealed for shipment, the slot 5 is permanently sealed along its entire length by,

on its first lip 9, a double seal comprising:

first, the first zone 12 of the second face of the adhesive strip 10 adhering to the outer wall 2, and

second, the first face 16 of the adhesive strip 10 adhering to a portion of the outer wall 2 of the container in an area spaced from the slot 5; and

on its second lip 23, an elongated seal comprising the second zone 14 of the second face of the adhesive strip 10 extending from the slot 5 and the second lip 23 to and beyond the first edge of the adhesive strip 10 and there adhering to a different portion of said outer wall 2 of the container.

2. (Previously Amended) A package according to claim 1, wherein the outer wall (2) of the envelope (30) has a further portion extending beyond (4) the second lip (23) of the slot (5), for a distance at least equal to a length of the second zone (14) of the second face of the adhesive strip (10).

3. (Previously Amended) A package according to claim 2, wherein a length of the second zone (14) of the second face of the adhesive strip (10) is at least equal to a length of the first zone (12) of the second face of the adhesive strip.

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4. (Previously Amended) A package according to claim 1, wherein the slot (5) is rectilinear.

5. (Previously Amended) A package according to claim 4, wherein the slot (5) is arranged close to a rectilinear edge (31) of the envelope (30).

6. (Previously Amended) A package according to claim 1, wherein the envelope (30) is divided into a plurality of distinct pockets (27), each of said distinct pockets communicating with a respective portion of the slot (5).

7. (Previously Amended) A package according to claim 1, wherein the envelope (30) comprises at least one sheet (2, 6) comprising an outer layer of oriented polyamide, and an inner, polyethylene layer (30) laminated to said outer layer.

8. (Previously Amended) A package according to claim 1, wherein the adhesive strip (10) comprises at least one sheet (13, 20) of synthetic olefin polymer, covered on two sides with a rubber based adhesive (12, 14, 16, 21).

9. (Currently Amended) A method for airtight packing of a product, comprising the steps of:

- providing a package according to claim 1;
 - inserting the product (28) into the envelope (30), through the slot (5),
 - removing the first protective strip (15) covering the second zone (14) of the adhesive strip (10), and sealing said second zone on the second lip (23) of the slot and onto the outer wall (4) of the envelope;
 - removing the second protective strip (17) from the first face (16) of the adhesive strip;
- and

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- folding the envelope back on itself along the slot, so that the stripped face of the adhesive strip is folded back on itself, forming said double and said elongated seals over the slot.

10. (Previously Amended) A method for airtight packing of a product according to claim 9, wherein a relative pressure of at least 0.95 bar and a temperature in the range of -40°C to 55°C exists inside said package after packing without losing product outside the envelope.

11. (Previously Amended) A package according to claim 2, wherein the slot ~~(5)~~ is rectilinear.

12. (Previously Amended) A package according to claim 3, wherein the slot ~~(5)~~ is rectilinear.

13. (Previously Amended) A package according to claim 2, wherein the envelope ~~(30)~~ is divided into a plurality of distinct pockets ~~(27)~~, each communicating with a respective portion of the slot ~~(5)~~.

14. (Previously Amended) A package according to claim 3, wherein the envelope ~~(30)~~ is divided into a plurality of distinct pockets ~~(27)~~, each communicating with a respective portion of the slot ~~(5)~~.

15. (Previously Amended) A package according to claim 4, wherein the envelope ~~(30)~~ is divided into a plurality of distinct pockets ~~(27)~~, each communicating with a respective portion of the slot ~~(5)~~.

16. (Previously Amended) A package according to claim 2, wherein the envelope ~~(30)~~ comprises at least one sheet ~~(2, 6)~~ comprising an outer layer of oriented polyamide, and an inner, polyethylene layer laminated to said outer layer.

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17. (Previously Amended) A package according to claim 3, wherein the envelope ~~(30)~~ comprises at least one sheet ~~(2, 6)~~ comprising an outer layer of oriented polyamide, and an inner, polyethylene layer laminated to said outer layer.

18. (Previously Amended) A package according to claim 4, wherein the envelope ~~(30)~~ comprises at least one outer sheet ~~(2, 6)~~ comprising an outer layer of oriented polyamide, and an inner, polyethylene layer laminated to said outer layer.

19. (Previously Amended) A package according to claim 2, wherein the adhesive strip ~~(10)~~ comprises at least one sheet ~~(13, 20)~~ of synthetic olefin polymer, covered on two sides with a rubber based adhesive ~~(12, 14, 16, 21)~~.

20. (Previously Amended) A package according to claim 3, wherein the adhesive strip (10) comprises at least one sheet (13, 20) of synthetic olefin polymer, covered on two sides with a rubber based adhesive (12, 14, 16, 21).

21. A single use, sealable package that is adapted, when sealed after insertion of selected contents, to resist leakage or loss of said contents when subjected to a raised internal pressure compared to external, ambient pressure over a range of temperatures, so as to meet pertinent international and federal standards for shipping hazardous contents therein by commercial transport, the package comprising:

a flexible, air-impervious envelope having an outer wall, wherein

portions of said outer wall form a slot through said outer wall and also form first and

second lips on said outer wall adjacent said slot, the slot having a length along the

slot and the lips having a length extending beyond both ends of the slot;

an adhesive strip 10 positioned selectively to close the slot 5 in said outer wall 2 along the entire

length of and beyond said slot 5, the adhesive strip 10 comprising a substrate strip covered

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by opposite first 16 and second 12, 14, generally parallel adhesive faces and-having opposite first and second lateral edges extending parallel to the slot,
wherein, before the package is closed,
said first parallel adhesive face 16 is completely covered with a first detachable protective strip 17, and
said second parallel adhesive face 12,14 comprises
a first zone 12 adjacent said first lateral edge of the strip 10 that is fixed to the outer wall 2 of the envelope along the entire length of said first lip 9 of said slot 5 and
and
a second zone 14 adjacent said second lateral edge of the strip that is adapted to extend adjacent and beyond the slot 5 and over said second lip 23 of the slot, said second zone 14 being covered with a second detachable protective strip 15, and
the said second zone 14 being substantially wider than the said first zone 12, forming an elongated zone transverse to the slot; and
wherein, after the package is filled with said contents and closed and sealed for shipment, the slot 5 is doubly sealed by
a first seal bridging the slot 5 between the lips 9 and 23, formed by (i) the substrate of the adhesive strip 10, (ii) the juncture of the first zone 12 and the second zone 14 of the second face of the adhesive strip 10 adhering to the outer wall 2 of the package, and (iii) the first face 16 of the adhesive strip 10 overlapping and adhering to itself opposite the first zone 12 of the second face of the adhesive strip 10, and by

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a second seal formed by said elongated zone extending beyond the first edge of the adhesive strip 10 and there adhering on both its opposite faces (16, 14) to different portions of the folded-over outer wall 2.